



Presbyterian Courier

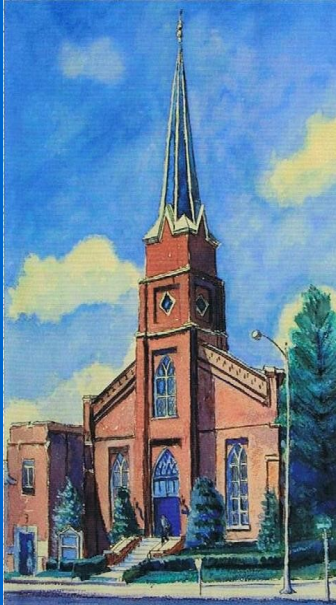
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



Volume 25

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Issue 7



Pastor's Column

I was fascinated by the story, in March, of the Ever Given, that giant transport ship that got stuck in the Suez Canal. The event had a little bit of everything: human failure, modern excess, economic impact, and, of course, a lot of suspense. Day-to-day we hoped the Ever Given could be set loose.

Picture the Summer of 2021 as the Suez Canal. Something big and exciting is being set loose.

I'm thinking of two things, in particular. I'm especially excited about the launching of new small groups in our church, and our return to in-person activities. We've been stuck for a while, but soon we will be sailing again.

Small groups are a big deal. Small groups are eight to twelve people who come together to scratch a common itch for bible study, exercise, fellowship, or shared hobbies. Social scientists call these "affinity groups." For what do you have an affinity; and how can the church help you share what you love?

One of our advisors in the planning process asked us to consider: Are we a church with small groups, or a small groups church? That remains to be seen. What will come out of the canal? Can encouraging everybody to join in one (or more) small groups help us feed each other's hunger for friendships, experiences, enjoyments, and learning? Might small group ministry be a way to enliven the practice of faith?

In one important sense, gathering in small groups is a nod to the fact that Sunday mornings aren't for everybody. Busy lives, travel schedules, and sports may mean that people may need to fan the flames of a spiritual component in other ways and on other days.

You're going to get the chance. Stay tuned.

Coming back to in-person events is a matter about which we want to be careful. We know that children cannot yet be vaccinated against Covid-19; and their care is a priority. However, most of our adults have been vaccinated, and are ready to resume normal activities.

We are asking people to use their own discretion, mostly. Efforts continue to provide contact tracing, if needed; and filters in our air-handling system are in place. We want to see you; but only when you are ready.

Think of the Summer as the Suez Canal, and our church as the Ever Given. Soon it will be anchors aweigh!

Always, know you are loved!

Matthew

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Christian Education

What a wonderful time! We gathered on June 6 at Christ Episcopal Church of our 'one day wonder!' We had food trucks for families to purchase dinner. While the weather decided not to cooperate for us to be outdoors, we were able to move inside safely (required masks of all over 5). Following dinner we gathered in the church for opening time. Bible study met there and was well led by Matthew Covington. Crafts met in Surface Hall and the children were able to make "Come to the Table" Placemats in various ways as well as decorate and plant either a pepper or tomato to take home. Many thanks to Larry Warden for his generosity with the tomato and pepper plants! David Clarke, assisted by Maddie Davenport and Emma Ahmed helped to lead games in Moore Hall. And kudos to Annette and Laura Parkerson, David Clarke, and Emma Ahmed who helped us understand the scripture through drama!



We structured differently this year, asking families to register together. What we saw was a wonderful group of around 65 children, youth and adults who came together, broke bread and then rotated as groups (we had three groups of 5-6 family 'bubbles' together) to learn, play, create and worship together. We look forward to next year returning to a 'normal' four evening schedule, but we are very likely to keep the intergenerational aspect of this event!

Sunday School will break from July 4 through August 15.



Rally Day is August 22! There are plans in the works for BIG TIME FUN! Mission Fair, service projects, crafts, games, food trucks and more. 9:00am-1:00pm. Plan to invite friends. Sunday school will begin that day as well!

Fall Classes are beginning to shape up! There will be Sunday morning options for all ages, with nursery for children under 5 during worship. Small Groups are forming and will meet at various times during the week (and we want EVERYONE to be part of a small group). We are also looking at offering short term studies on Sundays and other days as able. Life long discipleship is important for a vital congregation. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer!

Vacation Bible School



PICTURES FROM VBS

Missions

Backpacks for Success is a partnership program with the Housing Authority. We have committed to provide 75 backpacks for the children there, many of whom have difficulty being able to get the necessary items for school success. Our help will give them a boost, and let them know we and God love them! We're off to a great start, but still have a ways to go. Each backpack needs: pencils, erasers, scissors, 24 count box of crayons, wide ruled filler paper, composition book, glue sticks, dry erase marker, pencil case, pencil sharpener, a personal size hand sanitizer and a box of tissues. The approximate cost of a 'full' backpack is \$40-45 and any monetary donations will be used carefully to meet our goal. Be sure to check out the commercial our youth have made – the video is posted to Facebook and our website. The deadline for items is **July 18**, as we will be packing the backpacks that week (and purchasing what is still needed).

FILLING THE BACKPACKS



OUR MISSION MATCHING CHALLENGE was a wonderful success thanks to your generosity! CUICHM: 100 à \$400; DRITI: \$125 à \$350; Living Waters for the World: \$150 à \$300; MANNA MART: \$125 à \$425 and Habitat for HUMANITY \$50 à \$200. Many thanks to our anonymous donor who seeded our children and youth with \$25 each - we brought in a total of \$1675! You can see that some ministry got tripled! thank you for your generosity that will benefit our community.

Saturday Meals – our next date will be September 11 and will require our 'usual' volunteer crew to help with sorting bread and desserts, serving, wrapping and delivering. Bread pick-up from Panera will resume in July. More details when we get closer, but we hope you will put that date on your calendar and save 6:30am-9:00am for this important and much needed ministry!



Decadence returns! Sunday September 19 the Mission Committee will be sponsoring our annual Habitat/Living Waters fundraiser. Because we're still negotiating this pandemic, even with vaccines, we will be doing things a bit differently this year. Decadent desserts will indeed be needed and we will have other fun items as well. More information as available, but mark the calendar now!

Our Christmas Market will return December 4, 9:00-2:00pm. Details are in the planning stages, and the sign up for the vendors (we will be limiting that a bit more this year) will be available later this summer. Stay tuned.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women, we're gathering online! Let us come together to "Rejoice in Hope" during PW's Online Churchwide Gathering Event, **August 5, 2021**.

Following the conclusion of the Business Meeting, join with Presbyterian Women for two hours of worship and plenary. Inspiring speakers and preachers will lead a time of rejoicing and renewal! Bookmark www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering and watch PW's social media (#PWGathering #2021ChurchwideGathering) for updates!



PW SUMMER GATHERING A wonderful time was had by all as we gathered at the lovely home of Faye & Mark Patton. We toured their beautiful gardens, gathered for a delicious boxed lunch, enjoyed a special program from Julia Robert's, dedicated the Birthday Offering & installed our new officers! Our time together was truly special! We would like to thank the Pattons for their kindness!

Church and Community



Sunday August 15! 10:00am at the Beard Pavilion. Although we are moving toward the light following our long-enforced separation, we are aware we still must do things a bit differently to ensure safety. So this year, our picnic will be an all-in event, with everything provided. We hope you will take the opportunity to invite someone new to join us, and there is no need for anyone to bring anything but themselves, or maybe a folding chair (as desired) and their appetite! We'll worship and then enjoy food and fellowship together. We will spread tables out and have additional shaded seating. Outdoors means no masks are needed. We will have plenty of hand sanitizer available. Come and enjoy!

Help will be needed for the day. David Thomison is coordinating set-up, overnight meat cooking, and the break down. A brief meeting for those interested in helping will be scheduled in July. Stay tuned to the 60-Second Email and bulletin for the date.

The picnic is being coordinated by Leslee Kirkconnell. We have a sign-up genius to help get organized. Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9ab2ca7f49-pigpickin>. We need our great cooks to provide dishes of potato salad, coleslaw or cornbread, 20-25 servings each. We hope to have 125-150 people attend, and thus need these amounts. We also need individuals willing to serve the food (again this is for this year a safety provision). Questions can be answered by Bud Schlinker, our Fellowship Chair.

Fall Craft Week at Montreat, September 25-October 1. Get away to the mountains for a week of crafts, worship and relaxing. Leslee Kirkconnell is exploring possibly attending this conference and invites any to join the fun. Email /call her for details. Housing together arranged for the group, with costs divided.



Chancel Choir will resume regular rehearsals and participation in Sunday services after Pig Pickin'. Rehearsals are 5-6pm on Wednesdays. Please contact Wayne Pope with any questions or interest. 270-991-8761 or wayne.pope@wku.edu.

Sunday Fellowship – while we are beginning to emerge from our enforced separation, we do look forward to being able to come together for casual Sunday morning fellowship. We anticipate having coffee available in Fellowship Hall beginning on Rally Day. Coffee only, breakfast items will restart at a later date.



Seersucker Sunday – We were able to do this last year, even if apart, and this year will be better as we can be here and gather quickly for our photo-outdoors. Sunday August 29. So wear your seersucker as a fun 'farewell' to summer and get in the picture!

Church and Community

COOKBOOKS Bob Dickey has offered our church the cookbook collection of Bettye Brown, to be offered to the congregation to take home and use. (Between 100-200 books, hardcovers and in great condition) We plan to have a table set up at Rally Day and at other future events for browsing. Bob is counting on us to find new homes and cooks for these orphaned books! (Any small donation will always be appreciated.) Watch for the cookbook tables in future!

MASSIVE FOOD DONATION Our church, along with a few others in Bowling Green, was the recipient of a massive food donation provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah. A tractor trailer full of boxed non-perishables arrived in Bowling Green and was distributed among several church pantries. Several volunteers worked to unload and transport the cases of food— **many thanks** to our helpers, and to Mike and Muriel Kanan for putting us in touch with the donor organization!

As lots of the boxes contain bulk items which are hard to carry, our church is working with the Saturday Meals group to distribute the food and be sure it all gets to people in need. Saturday Meals will be exchanging some bulk items with us for more easy-to-carry food cans for our pantry, and using some for the Saturday Meals program. See the pictures below for a perspective of this sizeable food donation!



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following members and friends of this church who have recently lost loved ones:

***To Sandy Franklin, Susan and Brad Howard, and Nancy Hulan and their families in the death of Bob Franklin
To Sheryl Goad in the death of her brother John Darryl Mitchell
To Trudy Burkeen in the death of her cousin Martha McGrane***

Youth Ministries

Youth group will continue to meet for two weeks in July to continue our summer programming:

July 11th we will have our Star Wars movie marathon in the Fellowship Hall. On **July 25th** we are attending a Hot Rods game. If you would like more information on these, please reach out to David Clarke.

Our fall programming will begin again in August. If you would like a copy of the latest calendar, please reach out to David Clarke.

As we start to open up our building for in person attendance at our Sunday services, we are building a team of people to help run the livestream and sound desk during the service. If you are interested in helping with this please reach out to the office or [David Clarke](#).

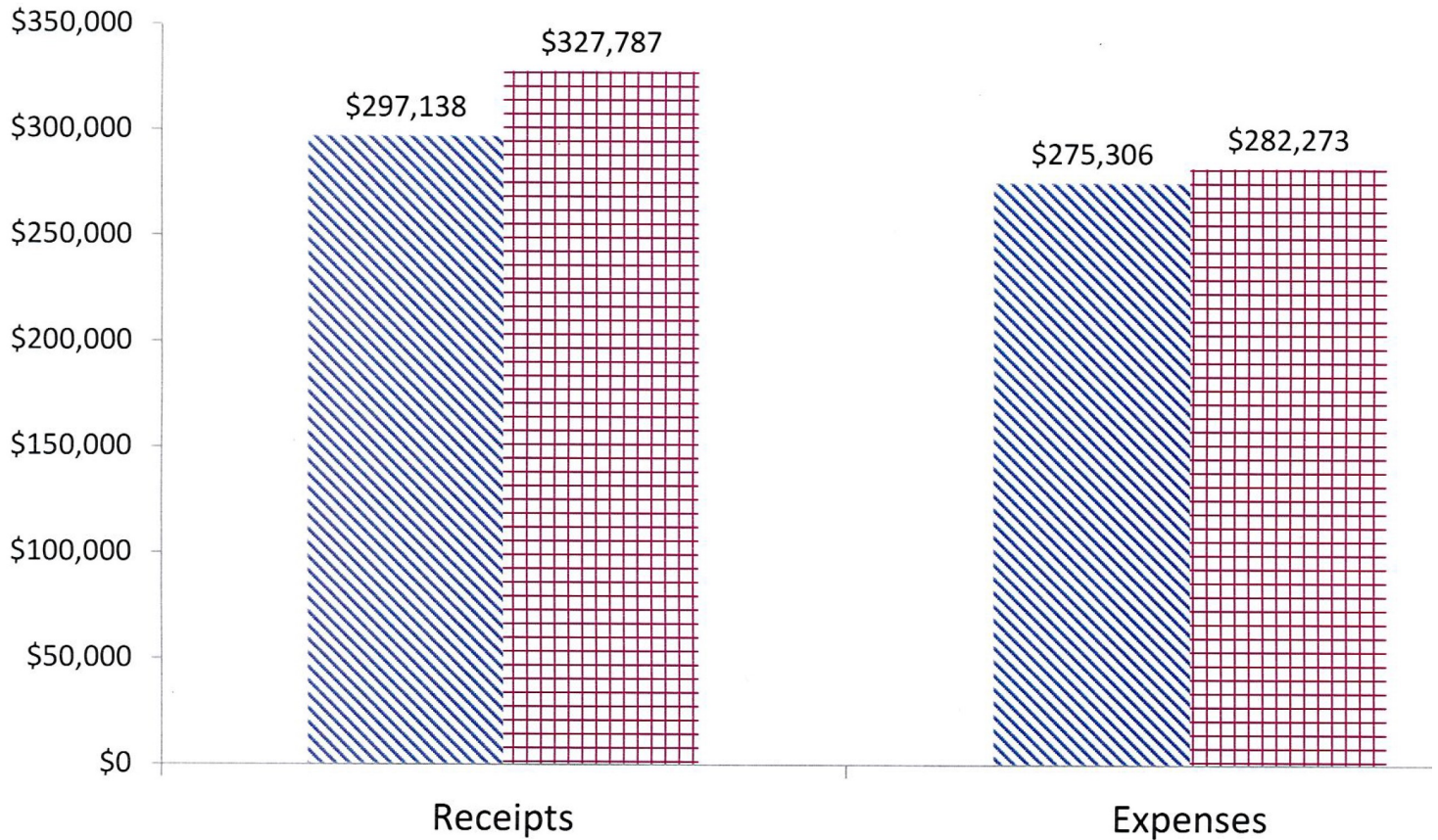


Finance Ministry

Financial Summary

Year to Date May
2021

▨ Budget
▨ Actual



July Birthdays

July 1

David Wilkinson

July 3

Larry Warden

July 4

Joel Brown

Tom Maurer

July 7

Erika Solberg

July 8

Nancy Keyser

July 14

Marilyn Mattingly

July 16

Alan Reeves

July 17

Matthew Covington

Chloe Johnson

Zoe Lebedinsky

July 18

Fran Bowen

Mary Evans

Jack Grise

Samuel Grise

Allison Webb

Sarah Webb

July 19

Pam Bratcher

Nancy English

Cookie Johnson

Donald Nuerge

July 20

Grace Alexieff

Rob Byrd

Sheryl Goad

Bette Jo Miller

July 21

Susan Howard

July 23

Glenn Kirkconnell

July 24

Jeff Anderson

Gretchen Bettersworth

David Thomison

July 25

Helen Hatchett

Shirley Karrick

July 26

Judith Rabold

July 27

Charles Runner

Austen Seidler

Owen Seidler

July 28

Leslie Embry

Martha Schell

July 29

Myra Dwyer

July 30

Katie Maurer

Bruce White

July 31

Sandy Brown


Herb Simmons

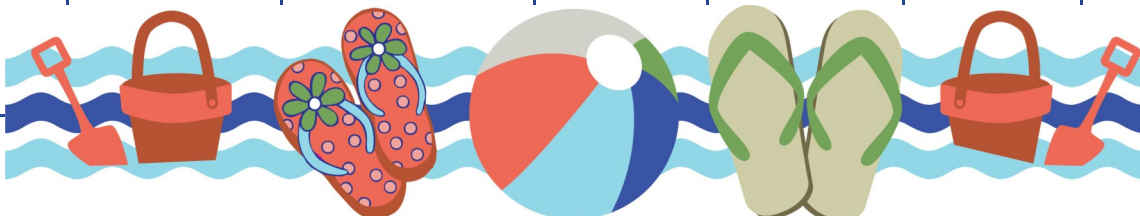


Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, Mary Evans, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Jean Harris, Wayne Hendrix, Tim Leigh, Nathan Love, Nancy Moore, Mike Morse, Pamela Napier, Bud Schlinker, and David Sears. Our church Deacons: Angie Alexieff, Rider Allen, Rob Byrd, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Ray Elms, Kim Ferguson, Kathleen Gildersleeve, Cathey Green, Linda Leigh, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Annette Parkerson, Teri Polen, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison and Judy Whitson.

July Calendar

Please check our 60-Second email and bulletin announcements regularly. In our present circumstances, scheduled events often change. Take care and stay safe!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00pm Comm. Ed. class	2	3 Sat. meals prep
4 10:30am Worship  <i>Independence DAY</i>	5 5:00pm Bible Study Office Closed	6 9:30am Chair Yoga 2:00pm Staff Meeting	7	8 6:00pm Comm. Ed. class	9	10 Sat. meals prep 9:30am Visitation 11:00am Memorial service (B. Bueker)
11 10:30am Worship	12 5:00pm Bible Study	13 9:30am Chair Yoga 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Camera Club	14	15 6:00pm Comm. Ed. class	16	17 Sat. meals prep 11:00am Memorial Service (D. Coverdale)
18 10:30am Worship	19 5:00pm Bible Study	20 9:30am Chair Yoga 1:00pm CUICHM 2:00pm Staff Meeting	21	22 6:00pm Comm. Ed. class	23	24 Sat. meals prep
25 10:30am Worship	26 5:00pm Bible Study	27 9:30am Chair Yoga 2:00pm Staff Meeting	28	29 6:00pm Comm. Ed. class	30	31 Sat. meals prep



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"Our reason for being is to manifest the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed so that disciples are made by means of inspiring and engaging worship, relevant and reliable education, compassionate and caring fellowship, meaningful and magnanimous outreach, to the glory of God."

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
July 15 is the deadline for the August 2021 newsletter. Please send your information to the church office at info@bgpres.org

The Presbyterian Church

Bowling Green, Kentucky
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www.bgpres.org

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